



U.S. Defense and Security in Niger: Enhancing Our Partner's Capacity

ne.usembassy.gov

The Department of Defense (DoD), working through U.S. Africa Command, partners with the Government of Niger to bolster and maintain its ability to provide for the security and safety of Nigeriens. The U.S. Embassy's Defense Attaché Office (DAO) and Office of Security Cooperation (OSC) coordinate U.S. security assistance with Niger through joint training exercises and operations. Our goal is to enable the Nigerien security forces, primarily the Forces Armées Nigériennes (FAN), to develop and sustain a professional security force, counter regional threats and criminal activities, and contribute to peacekeeping operations.

Since 2012, the DoD and the Department of State have provided Niger more than \$500 million in military assistance equipment and training programs – one of the largest security assistance and training programs in sub-Saharan Africa. The U.S. considers the FAN a professional partner and valued ally in our common goal to improve the security of Nigeriens. In support of our partnership with the FAN and assistance in the region, the U.S. Air Force built an 1,800-meter runway at Nigerien Air Base 201 (AB 201) in Agadez from which the Nigerien Air Force will conduct regional support operations along with the DoD. The American presence at Nigerien Air Base 101 (AB 101) in Niamey and AB 201 provides an opportunity for Nigerien and U.S. armed forces to train and work side-by-side.

To further assist the Nigerien people, we work with Nigerien military counterparts, U.S. Civil Affairs Teams at AB 101 and AB 201 have accomplished more than 1,000 civil engagements with local schools, women's groups, and civilian leadership, helping improve public understanding and appreciation of our joint security operations.

Our flagship partnerships include:

- **Aviation Capacity Building:** The United States provides training and maintenance support for the Nigerien Air Force's \$52 million C-130 and Cessna-208 aerial medical evacuation programs. In addition, the United States has arranged for professional Nigerien military aviation training (including opportunities to attend the Air Force Academy and Air War College in the United States).



U.S. Embassy Niger



- **Command, Control, Computers and Communications/Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR):** The United States has contributed \$16 million for development of a FAN Command and Control Node, as well as the operation of two C-208s specifically dedicated to expand Niger's military intelligence and surveillance capabilities.
- **Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA):** Since 2010, more than \$25 million has been allocated to help Nigerien National Police, National Gendarmerie, and National Guard forces improve law enforcement, border security, and civilian safety through counter-terrorism training, mentorship, and equipment.
- **Logistics and Maintenance Capacity Building:** The United States has provided training and equipment for two logistics companies, built two vehicle maintenance facilities, and provided vehicles, fuel training and fuel storage equipment. The U.S. is also dedicated to assisting with the institutional development of the FAN's logistics enterprise by providing a full-time logistics advisor.
- **Professionalizing the Force:** Funding since 2016 for international military education and training has allowed 307 Nigerien FAN officers and enlisted to attend advanced and basic professional training in the United States. The Security Governance Initiative (SGI), a long-term capacity-building program, is also helping the FAN deepen its professional capabilities by assisting the development of a national security framework and improved logistics, financial management, and personnel management programs, as well as improved communication of security policies to the public. Besides improved capacity, SGI seeks to promote transparency and accountability in the FAN's management.
- **Peacekeeping Operations:** The U.S. provides pre-deployment training and equipment for two Nigerien Battalions comprised of 800 soldiers that deploy in support of the UN's Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. The U.S. has also provided significant infrastructure upgrades and additions to the Ouallam Peacekeeping Training Center.
- **Counter-Improvised Explosive Devise (C-IED) Techniques:** US Army Africa training has enhanced the FAN's C-IED explosive ordnance disposal and humanitarian mine action abilities through a train-the-trainer program making the program self-sufficient.
- **Flintlock:** The U.S. supports Niger's participation in annual joint exercises with other west- and north-African countries developing the capacity of and collaboration among African, European, and North American security forces to protect civilian populations.
- **Women, Peace, and Security:** Niger is on the forefront of increasing opportunities for women to serve in its Defense & Security Forces. The OSC has established a benchmark program to improve awareness, increase recruitment, and highlight success stories.



Additionally, the U.S. supports training exchange programs through our International Visitor Leadership Program and the State Partnership Program with the Indiana National Guard.

Through these and other programs, the United States continues to be a strong and committed partner conducting joint and regional operations to counter terrorism, sustain peace, and enhance security in the Sahel.



U.S. Embassy Niger

